

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the same-numbered claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~enabling~~ conducting an online auction, including consideration of effects of uncertainty and risk factors while negotiating one or more e-commerce transactions, said method comprising:

~~maintaining one or more of the following online databases:~~

~~an updated online database of prices derivatives associated with goods or services involved in completing said transactions;~~

~~an online database of insurance derivatives associated with risks involved in completing said transactions;~~

~~an online database of counter party risk classification information associated with activities of said transactions;~~

~~an online database of market rules that govern said negotiations;~~

~~an online database of customized information related to risks at a given point of time for specified transactions;~~

~~maintaining an updated online database of currency exchange derivatives associated with each activity involved in completing said transactions;~~

~~determining costs associated with one or more risk elements by using data corresponding to parameters of said transactions in conjunction with requirements of applicable market rules and information from said online databases;~~

~~modifying said data corresponding to said parameters of said transactions by using said information from said databases;~~

~~wherein, when applied to online auctions between a seller and multiple buyers, a winning bid for desired goods or services in an online auction is selected on a basis of highest risk-adjusted payout to said seller, said highest risk-adjusted payout to said seller is determined by incorporation of an effect of various said derivatives relevant for completion of said transaction~~

related to each bid if said bid is to be selected, and said incorporation of said effect of various said derivatives is by deduction of said costs associated with said risk elements, and

wherein when applied to online reverse auctions between a buyer and multiple sellers, a winning offer for desired goods or service in an online reverse auction is selected on a basis of least risk adjusted cost to said buyer, said least risk adjusted cost to said buyer is determined by incorporation of an effect of various said derivatives relevant for completion of said transaction related to each sell offer if said sell offer is to be selected, and said incorporation of said effect of various said derivatives is by addition of said costs associated with said risk elements

initiating, by an online market intermediary, said online auction, said initiating including declaring a specification of a risk class to which an offering party of said auction belongs and other terms for an auctioned item;

determining the validity of received bids, by said online market intermediary, using rules for said auction;

upon closure of said online auction in accordance with said rules, obtaining information on prices of various derivatives required for risk mitigation related to each valid bid received by said online market intermediary,

wherein said various derivatives comprise:

currency exchange rate derivatives; and

any of price derivatives and insurance derivatives; and

computing, by said market intermediary, a risk premium according to said various derivatives and risk classes to which said offering party and a counterparty belong for said each valid bid;

based on said computing of said risk premium and said other terms, determining, by said online market intermediary, an assignment of said item from a seller to a buyer, a price paid by said buyer, an amount received by said seller, and amounts paid for online services used by said seller and said buyer,

wherein said determining said assignment comprises:

computing a risk-adjusted payout to seller (RPS) for said each valid bid;

and

assigning said item of said each valid bid with a highest RPS to said buyer;

booking, by said online market intermediary, a contract, based on said assignment, said price paid by said buyer, said amount received by said seller, and said amounts paid for online services used by said seller and said buyer, to transact said online auction; and
communicating said booking to said buyer and said seller.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference;~~ further utilized for determining comprising:

determining a set of said e-commerce transactions that should take place from amongst various possibilities given said effects of uncertainty and said risk factors and a set of said e-commerce transactions that should not take place from amongst various possibilities given said effects of uncertainty and said risk factors[.]); and

determining prices to be paid by buyers, amounts to be received by sellers and payments to be made to other service providers, in ~~respective~~ specific currencies, for said set of said transactions that should take place.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference;~~ wherein said ~~prices~~ price derivatives provide contractable rates of identical goods or services derived from primary goods or services being negotiated for one of purchase and sale at specified future dates.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference;~~ wherein said currency exchange rate derivatives provide contractable rates of currency exchange at specified future dates.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference;~~ wherein said ~~modification may involve~~ computing comprises

converting amounts from original currencies to amounts in different currencies using said currency exchange rate derivatives.

6. (Currently Amended). The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein said counter party risk classification information includes an estimated uncertainty of an opposite party fulfilling its obligation~~ further comprising:

maintaining one or more of the following online databases:

an updated online database of prices derivatives associated with goods or services involved in completing said transactions,

an online database of insurance derivatives associated with risks involved in completing said transactions,

an online database of counter party risk classification information associated with activities of said transactions,

an online database of market rules that govern said negotiations, and

an online database of customized information related to risks at a given point of time for specified transactions; and

maintaining an updated online database of currency exchange derivatives associated with each activity involved in completing said transactions.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim [[1]] ~~6, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein each of said databases are located at a seller end, located at a buyer end, or hosted by a third party.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein said method is implemented by an online market intermediary providing said facilities as a service~~ provides services against a fee of commission.

9-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~; wherein a minimum required qualifying bid amount is communicated to a potential bidder in response to request for information about a current status of said auctions.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~; wherein a maximum allowable offer amount is communicated to a potential seller in response to request for the information about the current status of the reverse auctions.

23-54. (Cancelled).

55. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product comprising computer-readable program code stored on computer-readable storage medium embodied therein for enabling~~ online storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by said machine to perform a method for conducting an online auction, including consideration of effects of uncertainty and risk factors while negotiating one or more e-commerce transactions, said method comprising:

~~computer-readable program code configured for maintaining one or more of the following online databases:~~

~~an updated online database of prices derivatives associated with goods or services involved in completing said transactions;~~

~~an updated online database of currency exchange derivatives associated with each activity involved in completing said transactions;~~

~~an online database of insurance derivatives associated with risks involved in completing said transactions;~~

~~an online database of counter party risk classification information associated with activities of said transactions;~~

~~an online database of market rules that govern said negotiations;~~

an online database of customized information related to risks at a given point of time for specified transactions;

computer-readable program code configured for maintaining an updated online database of currency-exchange derivatives associated with each activity involved in completing said transactions;

computer-readable program code configured for determining costs associated with one or more risk elements by using data corresponding to parameters of said transactions in conjunction with requirements of applicable market rules and information from said online databases; and

computer-readable program code configured for modifying said data corresponding to said parameters of said transactions by using said information from said databases;

wherein, when configured for an online auctions between a seller and multiple buyers, said computer program product further includes computer-readable program code configured for selecting a winning bid for desired goods or services in an online auction that is selected on a basis of highest risk-adjusted payout to said seller, and computer-readable program code configured for determining said highest risk-adjusted payout to said seller that is determined by incorporation of an effect of various said derivatives relevant for completion of said transaction related to each bid if said bid is to be selected;

wherein said incorporation of said effect of various said derivatives is through computer-readable program code configured for deducting said costs associated with said risk elements; and

wherein, when configured for an online reverse auctions between a buyer and multiple sellers, said computer program product further includes computer-readable program code configured for selecting a winning offer for desired goods or service in an online reverse auction that is selected on a basis of least risk-adjusted cost to said buyer and computer-readable program code configured for determining said least risk-adjusted cost to said buyer that is determined by incorporation of an effect of various said derivatives relevant for completion of said transaction related to each sell offer if said sell offer is to be selected, wherein said

incorporation of said effect of various said derivatives is through computer readable program code configured for adding said costs associated with said risk elements

initiating, by an online market intermediary, said online auction, said initiating including declaring a specification of a risk class to which an offering party of said auction belongs and other terms for an auctioned item;

determining the validity of received bids, by said online market intermediary, using rules for said auction;

upon closure of said online auction in accordance with said rules, obtaining information on prices of various derivatives required for risk mitigation related to each valid bid received by said online market intermediary,

wherein said various derivatives comprise:

currency exchange rate derivatives; and

any of price derivatives and insurance derivatives; and

computing, by said market intermediary, a risk premium according to said various derivatives and risk classes to which said offering party and a counterparty belong for said each valid bid;

based on said computing of said risk premium and said other terms, determining, by said online market intermediary, an assignment of said item from a seller to a buyer, a price paid by said buyer, an amount received by said seller, and amounts paid for online services used by said seller and said buyer,

wherein said determining said assignment comprises:

computing a risk-adjusted payout to seller (RPS) for said each valid bid;

and

assigning said item of said each valid bid with a highest RPS to said buyer;

booking, by said online market intermediary, a contract, based on said assignment, said price paid by said buyer, said amount received by said seller, and said amounts paid for online services used by said seller and said buyer, to transact said online auction; and

communicating said booking to said buyer and said seller.

56. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as claimed in claim 55, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, further utilized for determining comprising:

determining a set of said e-commerce transactions that should take place from amongst various possibilities given said effects of uncertainty and said risk factors and a set of said e-commerce transactions that should not take place from amongst various possibilities given said effects of uncertainty and said risk factors[.]; and

determining prices to be paid by buyers, amounts to be received by sellers and payments to be made to other service providers, in ~~respective~~ specific currencies, for said set of said transactions that should take place.

57. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as claimed in claim 55, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein said ~~prices~~ price derivatives provide contractable rates of identical goods or services derived from primary goods or services being negotiated for one of purchase and sale at specified future dates.

58. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as claimed in claim 55, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein said currency exchange rate derivatives provide contractable rates of currency exchange at specified future dates.

59. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as claimed in claim 55, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein said ~~modification may involve~~ computing comprises converting amounts from original currencies to amounts in different currencies using said currency exchange rate derivatives.

60. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as claimed in claim 55, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein said ~~counter party risk classification information includes an estimated uncertainty of an opposite party fulfilling its obligation~~ further comprising:

maintaining one or more of the following online databases;

an updated online database of prices derivatives associated with goods or services involved in completing said transactions,

an online database of insurance derivatives associated with risks involved in completing said transactions,

an online database of counter party risk classification information associated with activities of said transactions,

an online database of market rules that govern said negotiations, and

an online database of customized information related to risks at a given point of time for specified transactions; and

maintaining an updated online database of currency exchange derivatives associated with each activity involved in completing said transactions.

61. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ storage device as claimed in claim [[55]] 60, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein each of said databases are located at a seller end, located at a buyer end, or hosted by a third party.

62. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ storage device as claimed in claim 55, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein said ~~computer program product is configured for an online market intermediary providing said facilities as a service provides services~~ against a fee of commission.

63-74. (Cancelled).

75. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ storage device as claimed in claim 55, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, including computer readable program code configured for communicating wherein~~ a minimum required qualifying bid amount is communicated to a potential bidder in response to request for information about a current status of said auctions.

76. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ storage device as claimed in claim 55, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, including computer-readable program code configured for communicating~~ a maximum allowable offer amount is communicated to a potential seller in response to request for the information about the current status of the reverse auctions.

77-81. (Cancelled).

82. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling conducting online, a two sided matching market, including consideration of effects of uncertainty and risk factors while negotiating one or more e-commerce transactions, said method comprising:

maintaining one or more of the following online databases:

an updated online database of prices derivatives associated with goods or services involved in completing said transactions;

an online database of insurance derivatives associated with risks involved in completing said transactions;

an online database of counter party risk classification information associated with activities of said transactions;

an online database of market rules that govern said negotiations;

an online database of customized information related to risks at a given point of time for specified transactions;

maintaining an updated online database of currency exchange derivatives associated with each activity involved in completing said transactions, wherein said currency exchange derivatives provide contractable rates of currency exchange at specified future dates;

determining costs associated with one or more risk elements by using data corresponding to parameters of said transactions in conjunction with requirements of applicable market rules and information from said online databases; and

modifying said data corresponding to said parameters of said transactions by using said information from said databases;

wherein, when applied to online auctions between a seller and multiple buyers, a winning bid for desired goods or services in an online auction is selected on a basis of highest risk-adjusted payout to said seller, said highest risk-adjusted payout to said seller is determined by incorporation of an effect of various said derivatives relevant for completion of said transaction related to each bid if said bid is to be selected, and said incorporation of said effect of various said derivatives is by deduction of said costs associated with said risk elements, and

wherein, when applied to online reverse auctions between a buyer and multiple sellers, a winning offer for desired goods or service in an online reverse auction is selected on a basis of least risk-adjusted cost to said buyer, said least risk-adjusted cost to said buyer is determined by incorporation of an effect of various said derivatives relevant for completion of said transaction related to each sell offer if said sell offer is to be selected, and said incorporation of said effect of various said derivatives is by addition of said costs associated with said risk elements

initiating, by an online market intermediary, said two sided matching market, said initiating including announcing a book of positions to buyers and sellers, said book of positions including a list of unmatched buy and sell positions for a given item;

for each unmatched offer to sell, storing, by said online market intermediary, a value of a required risk-adjusted payout to seller (RPS), which denotes a minimum amount per unit that said seller, owning a given sell position, will accept after subtracting a risk premium corresponding to said buyer;

for each unmatched bid to buy, storing, by said online market intermediary, a value of a risk-adjusted payment from buyer (RPB), which denotes a maximum amount per unit that said buyer, owning a given buy position, will pay before subtracting a risk premium corresponding to said seller;

receiving, by said online market intermediary, one of a new position and an information request and obtaining information on prices of various derivatives required for risk mitigation related to said one of a new position and an information request received by said online market intermediary.

wherein said various derivatives comprise:

currency exchange rate derivatives; and

any of price derivatives and insurance derivatives; and
computing, by said market intermediary, a risk premium according to said various
derivatives and risk classes to which a party and a counterparty belong for said one of a new
position and an information request;
upon receiving said information request, said online market intermediary determining one
of:
a minimum RPB for a buyer information request that is at least equal to an
existing RPS corresponding to a given sell position for which said buyer information request was
made; and
a maximum RPS for a seller information request that is no greater than an existing
RPB corresponding to a given buy position for which said seller information request was made;
and communicates; and
communicating said determination to the requester of said information request;
and
upon receiving a new position, said online market intermediary determining one of:
a minimum RPB for a buyer information request that is at least equal to an
existing RPS corresponding to a given sell position for which said buyer information request was
made;
a maximum RPS for a seller information request that is no greater than an existing
RPB corresponding to a given buy position for which said seller information request was made;
and communicates;
matching said new position to an existing counter-position in accordance with
rules of said two sided continuous matching market; and
communicating said determination to owners of said new position and said
existing counter-position.

83. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 82, ~~all the limitations of which are~~
~~incorporated herein by reference;~~ further utilized for determining:

determining a set of said e-commerce transactions that should take place from amongst various possibilities given said effects of uncertainty and said risk factors and a set of said e-commerce transactions that should not take place from amongst various possibilities given said effects of uncertainty and said risk factors~~[.]; and~~

determining prices to be paid by buyers, amounts to be received by sellers and payments to be made to other service providers, in ~~respective~~ specific currencies, for said set of said transactions that should take place.

84. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 82, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein ~~said prices~~ price derivatives provide contractable rates of identical goods or services derived from primary goods or services being negotiated for one of purchase and sale at specified future dates.

85. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 82, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein said ~~modification may involve~~ computing comprise converting amounts from original currencies to amounts in different currencies using said currency exchange rate derivatives.

86. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 82, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein ~~said counter party risk classification information includes an estimated uncertainty of an opposite party fulfilling its obligation~~ further comprising:
maintaining one or more of the following online databases:

an updated online database of prices derivatives associated with goods or services involved in completing said transactions,

an online database of insurance derivatives associated with risks involved in completing said transactions,

an online database of counter party risk classification information associated with activities of said transactions,

an online database of market rules that govern said negotiations, and

an online database of customized information related to risks at a given point of time for specified transactions; and

maintaining an updated online database of currency exchange derivatives associated with each activity involved in completing said transactions.

87. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim [[82]] ~~86, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein each of said databases are located at a seller end, located at a buyer end, or hosted by a third party.

88. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 82, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein said ~~method is implemented by an online market intermediary providing said facilities as a service~~ provides services against a fee of commission.

89-91. (Cancelled).

92. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 87, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, applied to~~ wherein said two-sided matching ~~markets involving market comprises~~ multiple buyers and sellers.

93-100. (Cancelled).

101. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 82, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein a minimum required qualifying bid amount is communicated to a potential bidder in response to request for information about a current status of said auctions.

102. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 82, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein a maximum allowable offer amount is communicated

to a potential seller in response to request for the information about the current status of the reverse auctions.

103. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 92, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein sell orders resident in said databases are shown to a potential buyer after online addition of said computed costs associated with said risk elements to a price quoted by one of said sellers for each of said sell orders in response to request for such information in a two-sided matching market and online incorporation of values of applicable derivatives.

104. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 92, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein buy orders resident in said databases are shown to a potential seller after online deduction of said computed costs associated with said risk elements from a price quoted by one of said buyers for each of said sell orders in response to request for such information in a two-sided matching market and online incorporation of values of applicable derivatives.

105. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 92, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein resident sell orders are prioritized for matching an incoming buy order in increasing order of net cost computed by addition of said computed costs associated with said risk elements to a price quoted by one of said sellers for each of said sell orders in a two-sided matching market and online incorporation of values of applicable derivatives.

106. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 92, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein resident buy orders are prioritized for matching an incoming sell order in decreasing order of net price computed by deduction of said computed costs associated with risk elements to a price quoted by one of said buyers for each of said buy

orders in a two-sided matching market and online incorporation of values of applicable derivatives.

107. (Cancelled).